

(1135)

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Chief of Station, Santiago

X

Chief, Western Hemisphere Division

[REDACTED] Political Strategy

[REDACTED]

1. In addition to the comments [REDACTED] discussed the optimum strategies of each of the leading presidential candidates. He confirmed the current value of Alessandri's posture-i.e. the avoidance of a premature declaration of candidacy while maintaining the image of a strong independent individual not tied to a particular political party or ideology.

2. Tomic's best strategy is to flush out Alessandri as soon as possible, to promote if possible an Herrera candidacy to take votes away from Alessandri, to project himself as a strong, non-doctrinaire individual with pragmatic solutions for all of Chile as opposed to particular disadvantaged groups, and to move toward the center to appeal to moderates. Current survey evidence indicates that among some of those who indicate they plan to vote for Alessandri, Tomic has a favorable image. Should Alessandri be removed from the race, these votes would go to Tomic. Tomic has to compete for votes with Alessandri and to capture uncommitted voters, he must refrain from further leftward moves and forget about leftist alliances.

3. Allende's best strategy is to divide and conquer. He must recognize his limitation-i.e. the Communist/Socialist vote. Like Tomic, he would benefit from an Herrera candidacy that would reduce Alessandri's total. He could also hope to reduce Tomic votes by encouraging a MAPU candidate such as Gumucio or Chonchol.

4. In discussing Baltra, [REDACTED] indicated that he could not expect to capture more than 50% of Radical or Socialist votes

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Distribution:
3 - COS, Santiago

6 Aug 1969
5 August 1969

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Distribution:
1 - [REDACTED]
1 - Chrono
1 - Tempo
1 - [REDACTED]
X - X-ref

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as the FRAP candidate according to current survey evidence. Baltra does not come across as a strong, dynamic candidate, qualities of special importance in a presidential race. In addition, Baltra will not be able to rely on a disciplined Radical turnout in his behalf, whether he runs as the Radical or FRAP standardbearer.

5. [REDACTED] is available to clarify or expand any of the above points [REDACTED]. The optimum strategies cited above can serve as indicators and, combined with a continuous input of strategies as viewed by political leaders themselves, they can be very useful in measuring changing attitudes and trends in the coming months.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]